



Kawanihan sa Impormasyon

PARTIDO KOMUNISTA NG PILIPINAS
PINAPATNUBYAN NG MARXISMO-LENINISMO-MAOISMO

On the murder of Popoy Lagman

Statement by Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal
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There is no urgent nor grave reason for the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army to dispatch an armed unit against Popoy Lagman. The revolutionary armed forces have incomparably bigger and more pressing priorities and concerns.

The group which carried out the murder of Popoy Lagman, besides being his fierce enemy, definitely carries a different agenda and set of priorities. It is well-known that Popoy Lagman was very visible at the height of the protest movement and uprising against the ousted Estrada regime. The question is: Why was he killed only now and not when he was more vulnerable?

It is clear that the mastermind or masterminds' intention was not only to kill Popoy Lagman—but to sow bloody intrigue and disorder in the post-Estrada situation.

Who would wish to destabilize the situation while the new government positions itself and the broad masses of the people are clamoring for the implementation of justice and reforms for which the people revolted in EDSA?

Who will benefit and what big cases and investigations will be derailed if the investigation machineries of the police and new government are drawn to a new and gruesome case?

Who has the interest to instigate clashes, fire up armed conflicts to justify the "total war" policy and obstruct the resumption of peace talks?

Based on the circumstances and some initial data reported by the mass media, the group that is being considered as the primary suspect in the killing of Popoy Lagman as well as those directing this group are the same ones that plotted against,

made an attempt on and continue to threaten the life of Comrade Jose Ma. Sison.

In the last quarter of the year 2000, the Party and the NPA acquired detailed and indisputable information about the conspiracy among Estrada, military and police authorities, Romulo Kintanar, Arturo Tabara, Nilo dela Cruz and others to assassinate Comrade Jose Ma. Sison. This information was confirmed by further inquiries made by the Party within and outside the country and by a separate investigation conducted by Colonel Berroya.

Also among the leading suspects is the militarist group that may or may not be in cahoots with the ousted Estrada camp, which directly employs its own men or controls assets within the opposing factions within the ABB.

The Macapagal-Arroyo government must swiftly and decisively act if it does not wish to be overtaken by the destabilization and acts of sabotage of its enemies who refuse to accept defeat and even of those who have latched on to the new government carrying their own agenda.

It must expeditiously solve big crimes such as the December 30 bombings, the Dacer abduction, the attempt and continuing conspiracy against the life of Comrade Jose Ma. Sison, the murder of Popoy Lagman, and, most of all, the corruption and other heinous crimes of Estrada and his cronies.

If not, it would not be farfetched for the Macapagal-Arroyo government to suffer a fate similar to or worse than that of the ousted Estrada regime.